

Von Harten House
HO-862
5412 Montgomery Road, Ellicott City
Howard County
ca. 1950
Private

The Von Harten House (ca. 1950) is a 2-story, 3-bay, end-gable, Colonial Revival style house with a 1-story family room wing located on Montgomery Road south of downtown Ellicott City in Howard County, Maryland. The house has a stone basement, is clad with asbestos shingles, and has an asphalt roof. The house retains wood 8-over-8 sash and a wood Federal Revival front door surround. Brick chimneys are located at each gable end. Originally set on almost 4 acres, the house is now set back off the road on a 1.4-acre lot. It is the only building on the property.

The Von Harten House has significance as an intact mid-20th century, 2-story, Colonial Revival style house located south of downtown Ellicott City in Howard County, Maryland. The Von Harten house, at 5412 Montgomery Road, is one of three self-built houses located on country lots on the Emma and Everett Pierson farm (5386, 5412, 5440 Montgomery Road). In the years after WWII, many veterans emboldened with can-do wartime spirit and impatient with short supply of new houses simply bought roadside lots from farmers and built their own houses. Following the post-WWII trend, Harvey and Esther Von Harten started the house in 1949. The Von Hartens completed the stone raised basement (which they lived in), but ended up defaulting on their mortgage and lost the property in 1953. Richard Goswellen bought the property at auction, finished the house, and sold it in 1958.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-862

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Von Harten House

other N/A

2. Location

street and number 5412 Montgomery Road ___ not for publication

city, town Ellicott City ___ vicinity

county Howard County

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Roger and Linda Lark

street and number 5412 Montgomery Road telephone 410-465-7862

city, town Ellicott City state MD zip code 21043

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Land Records liber 2278 folio 623

city, town Columbia tax map 31 tax parcel 193 tax ID number 01-166085

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
 Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
 Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
 Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
 Recorded by HABS/HAER
 Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
 Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			<u>0</u>

7. Description

Inventory No. HO-862

Condition

excellent ___ deteriorated
 good ___ ruins
 fair ___ altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Von Harten House is a 2-story Colonial Revival style house located on Montgomery Road south of downtown Ellicott City in Howard County, Maryland. The house is set back off the road on a 1.4-acre lot. Originally set on almost 4 acres, 5412 Montgomery Road is one of three owner-built, post-WWII houses built on country lots on the Emma and Everett Pierson farm. The house is the only building on the property.

The Von Harten House (ca. 1950) is a 2-story, 3-bay, end-gable, Colonial Revival style house with a 1-story family room wing. The house has a stone basement, is clad with asbestos shingles, and has an asphalt roof. The house retains wood 8-over-8 sash and a wood Federal Revival front door surround. Brick chimneys are located at each gable end. The south chimney is an exterior fireplace chimney; the north chimney is an interior stove chimney.

Main house

The primary 3-bay facade of the Von Harten House faces west. The west elevation of the main block of the house is symmetrical about its entry bay. Openings on the west facade are vertically aligned. On the 1st story, the entry opening holds of a wood front door and wood Federal Revival door surround with pilaster capped by a broken pediment. Large wood, 25-light, oriel windows flank the front door. On the 2nd story, three window openings hold 8-over-8 wood sash.

The north facade of the main house is largely covered by the family room wing and porch. A door opening leading from the dining room to the porch is the only opening in the 1st story of the north facade of the main house. The 2nd story has one window opening that is vertically aligned with the door opening. An attic vent is located at the peak of the gable end.

The rear 3-bay facade faces east. The east elevation of the main block of the house is symmetrical about its entry bay. Openings on the east facade are vertically aligned. On the 1st story, a recent wood porch covers the entry opening. The window opening north of the back door is altered and now holds a three-light oriel window. The window opening south of the door holds a paired window with 6-over-6 sash. On the 2nd story, there are three window openings. The north and south openings hold 8-over-8 wood sash. The center opening holds a 6-over-6 sash and lights the bathroom.

The south facade of the main house is symmetrical about the brick exterior chimney. A pair of window openings that hold 8-over 8 sash flank the chimney on both the 1st and 2nd stories. One small cellar window is located east of the chimney and is vertically aligned with the 1st and 2nd story windows.

Family room wing

The family room wing projects from the north facade. A screened wood porch extends across the west facade of the family room wing. A door opening leading from the family room to the porch is the only opening in the west elevation of the family room wing.

The north facade of the family room wing has one centered 1st story window opening and one basement-story door opening, which is offset to the west. The cellar door is a wood half-glass door with 3 lights over 3 panels. A triangular attic vent is located at the peak of the gable end.

The east facade of the family room wing has a large picture window opening and a basement door opening. The window has a tripartite configuration composed of a central 16-light fixed window flanked by 6-over-6 sash.

Interior

The house has a traditional center-hall plan. The front door opens onto the center stair hall, which has a finely detailed Federal Revival newel, banister, and rail. Door openings leading to the living room and dining room open off the stair hall. The living room occupies the southern section of the 1st floor. The dining room occupies the northeastern quadrant of the 1st floor and the kitchen occupies the northwestern quadrant of the 1st floor. A powder room, accessed from the kitchen, has been added behind the stair on the 1st floor. The family room, which is a single open room, occupies the entire north wing. An interior stair to the basement is located in the southwestern corner of the family room. The 2nd floor has four bedrooms and a bathroom all opening off the center

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-862

Name

Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1

hall. The interior retains most of its original features and finishes, including wood floors, plaster walls, Federal Revival mantel, and wood paneling in the family room. The kitchen has been completely rehabbed.

Site

The house is set near the back of its 1.4-acre lot, away from the roadway. Originally almost 4-acres in size, the rear section of the property was subdivided for additional house lots in the ca. 1990s. A shared drive runs along the north edge of the property line and curves around behind the house to a parking area near the back door. The house is set surrounded by a lawn that is dotted with mature specimen trees. The current owners have planted additional shrubs and perennial gardens surrounding the house.

8. Significance

Inventory No. HO-862

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Von Harten House has significance as an intact mid-20th century, 2-story, Colonial Revival style house located south of downtown Ellicott City in Howard County, Maryland. Located at 5412 Montgomery Road, it is one of three self-built houses located on country lots on the Emma and Everett Pierson farm (5386, 5412, 5440 Montgomery Road). In the years after WWII, many veterans, emboldened with can-do wartime spirit and impatient with short supply of new houses, simply bought roadside lots from farmers and built their own houses. Following this post-WWII trend, Harvey and Esther Von Harten started the house in 1949

The original owners of the house north of the Von Harten House, Bill and Viola McFarland, have lived in the home they built in 1950 for 53 years and described how the houses at 5386-5440 Montgomery Road were built. Mr. McFarland paid the farmer Everett Pierson \$200 for his 4-acre lot, which the farmer promptly returned to him so that he could get his well dug. Built before the days of stringent zoning and building codes, there were no construction restrictions. The McFarlands, who were raised on farms in western PA, did all the work themselves save the plastering and the kitchen cabinetry, which was built by a German cabinetmaker who also did work for President John F. Kennedy and Jackie Kennedy. Bill and Viola initially lived in a tenant house on the farm, until they got the house framed and roofed. Mr. McFarland worked at Westinghouse, as did several other men who brought their families to Howard County after World War II, and built the house in the evenings after work and on the weekends. They noted that they were attracted to the area because the property was affordable due to its rural character. The McFarlands commented that there was almost no suburban development in the vicinity when they built their home. Local shopping consisted only of a family store, called Tyler's store, in a farmhouse on Montgomery Road near Orchard Drive. The nearest supermarket was in Catonsville.

Work did not go as smoothly at the Von Harten House as it did for the McFarlands. Harvey Von Harten, who was raised in Baltimore City, had a welding business in Catonsville.¹ The Von Hartens completed the stone raised basement (which they lived in), but ended up defaulting on their mortgage and lost the property in 1953. Richard Goswellen bought the property at auction, finished the house, and sold it in 1958. While the Von Harten House, completed by an investor, is a two-story house detailed in the Colonial Revival style, the completely self-built houses at 5386 and 5440 Montgomery Road are fastidiously maintained, small 1 1/2 story builder's Capes with almost no stylistic ornamentation.

¹ Department of Commerce – Bureau of the Census, **Fifteenth Census of United States: 1930, Population Schedule**, Baltimore City, ED 4-109, Sheet 5A.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. HO-862

Department of Commerce – Bureau of the Census. **Census of United States: Population Schedule 1930.**
Foster, Gerald. **American Houses.** Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2004
Howard County Land Records, Dorsey Building, Columbia. See attached chain of title for specific libers and folios.
Jennifer Goold. Interview with Linda Lark, Bill McFarland, and Viola McFarland, December 7, 2004.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 1.071 acres
Acreage of historical setting 3.9 acres
Quadrangle name Savage Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary of the Von Harten House corresponds to Map 31, Grid 20, Parcel 193, which is the building's current legal lot.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Jennifer Goold, Historic Sites Surveyor		
organization	Howard County Department of Planning & Zoning	date	December 7, 2004
street & number	3430 Courthouse Drive	telephone	410-313-4335
city or town	Ellicott City	state	MD

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

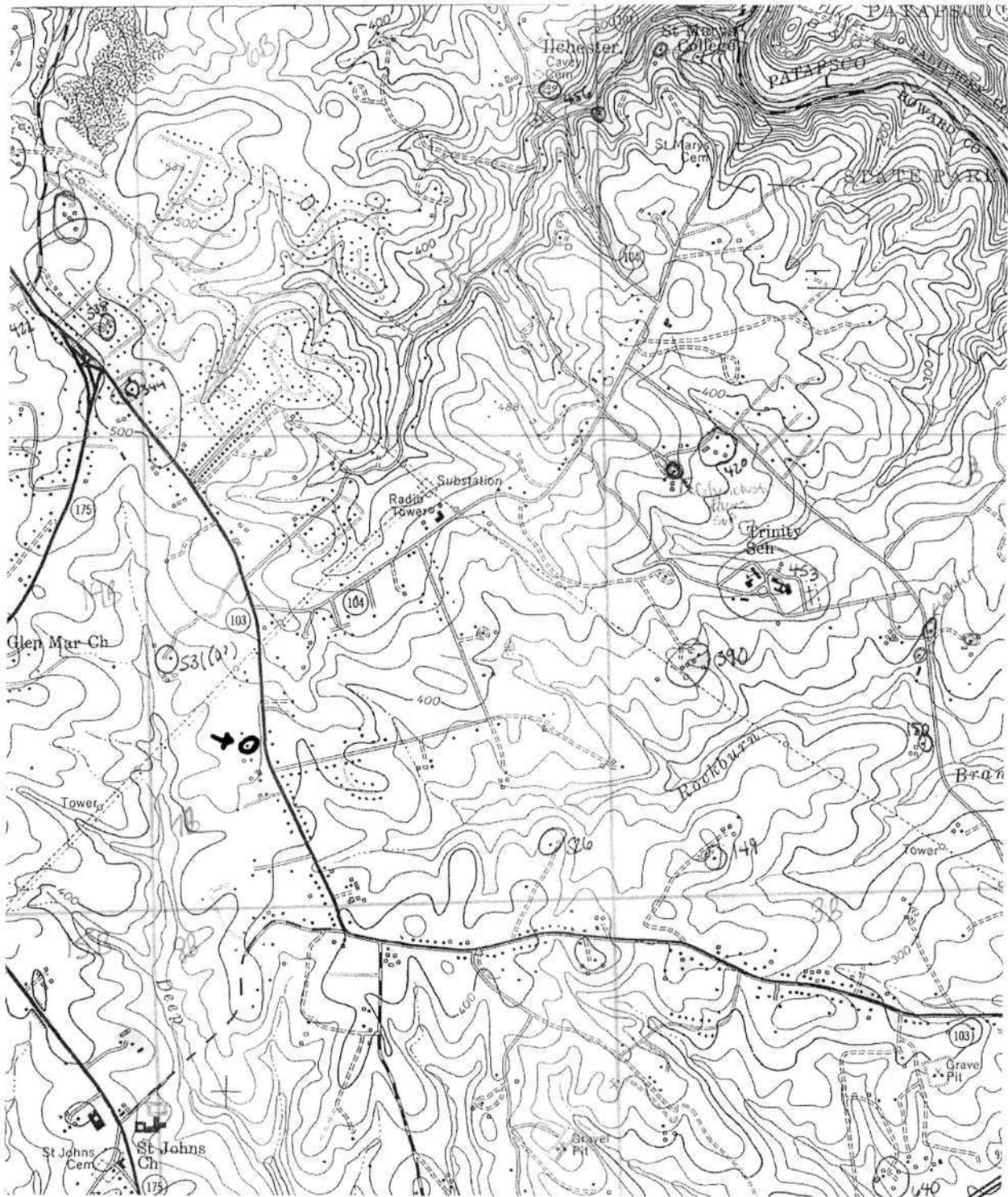
HO-862
 Von Harten House
 5412 Montgomery Road, Ellicott City
 Howard County

CHAIN OF TITLE

GRANTOR	GRANTEE	DATE	LIBER	FOLIO	TRANS.	PRICE	ACREAGE	COMMENTS
Dennis A. Hodge and Jung D. Hodge	Roger C. Lark and Linda L. Lark	01-04-1991	2278	623	Deed	\$179,000	1.410 acres	
Donald W. Fulton and Norma K. Fulton	Dennis A. Hodge and Jung D. Hodge	03-21-1986	1454	499	Deed	\$167,000	3.9 acres	
H. Wynne McConkey and Agnes H. McConkey	Donald W. Fulton and Norma K. Fulton	05-16-1969	509	460	Deed	\$5.00	3.9 acres	
Raymond T. Murphy and Patricia W. Murphy	H. Wynne McConkey and Agnes H. McConkey	10-15-1968	498	317	Deed	\$5.00	3.9 acres	
Calvin T. Grier, Jr. and Elaine P. Grier (Howard County)	Raymond T. Murphy and Patricia W. Murphy (Howard County)	03-31-1965	433	325	Deed	\$5.00	3.9 acres	
Ilchester Homes, Inc.	Calvin T. Grier and Elaine P. Grier	10-16-1958	322	72	Deed	\$5.00	3.9 acres	(previously 3 lots)
Richard W. Goswellen	Ilchester Homes, Inc.	01-29-1958	310	381	Deed	\$5.00	.77 acres (lot 2) 1.79 acres (lot 3)	
Richard W. Goswellen	Ilchester Homes, Inc.	01-29-1958	310	14	Deed	\$5.00	(lot 1)	
Gerald Kerr, attorney	Richard W. Goswellen	08-18-1955	271	347	Deed	\$12,000	3.9 acres	sold at public sale after the Von Hartens defaulted on their mortgage
Harvey W. Von Harten and Esther S. Von Harten	The Kenwood Building Loan and Savings Association	12-03-1953	251	288	Mortgage	\$13,000	3.9 acres	
Emma A. Pierson and Everett H. Pierson (Howard County)	Harvey W. Von Harten and Esther S. Von Harten	1-19-1949	208	529	Deed	\$5.00	3.9 acres	



Von Harten House (HO-862)
5412 Montgomery Road, Ellicott City, MD
Howard County
Site Plan/Aerial Photo



Von Harten House (HO-862)
5412 Montgomery Road
Ellicott City, Howard County
USGS Savage Quad



HO-862

Von Harten House

Howard County, MD

Jennifer Gould

02-05

MD SHPO

View W. Shows house in setting.

1063

ART-2611 <NO. 24 >003
-1 N N 1-1 N N-5-15 (044)@
969 1717



HO-862

Von Harten House

Howard County, MD

Jennifer Gould

02-05

MD SHPO

View W, Shows primary facade.

2063

ART-2611 <NO. 23 >002
969 1717 -1 N N-3-35 <044>@



HD-862

Von Harten House

Howard County, MD

Jennifer Gould

02-05

MD SHPO

View E. Shows rear facade.

Bob 3

ART-2611 <No. 22 >001
969 1217 -1 N N 1-1 N N 5-09 <044>©